

## REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed May 21, 2007, the Examiner noted that claims 1-38 were pending, and rejected claims 1-38. Claims 1, 3, 7, 9, 13, 17, 21, 25, 29, 33, 37 and 38 have been amended, no claims have been canceled, no new claims have been added and, thus, in view of the forgoing claims 1-38 remain pending for reconsideration which is requested. No new matter has been added. The Examiner's rejections are traversed below.

## OBJECTIONS

Claims 1, 3, 7, 9, 13, 17, 21, 25, 29, 33 and 37 stand objected to for various informalities. The claims have been amended in conformity with the Office's comments.

Withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

## REJECTIONS under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-2, 7-8 and 13-20 and 38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Beasley, U.S. Patent No. 5,721,842 in view of Applicant Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) and in further view of Rothenberg, U.S. Patent No. 5,432,850. Beasley discusses a computerized switching system for coupling a workstation to a remotely located computer. The Beasley system contains a crosspoint switch that allows input cards to transmit signals to and receives signals from up to eight of the remotely located server computers while, each of the output cards transmit to and receive signals from up to eight of the remotely located workstations Beasley Fig. 4, column 6 lines 14-20. The AAPA discusses a method that allows a user of a terminal to switch between a private computer and a network computer.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite "a connecting unit that connects in a default position each terminal to a corresponding private computer and switches a connection destination of the terminal to the at least one private computer corresponding to the at least one terminal or the shared computer when a connection switching request transmitted from the at least one terminal has been received." The prior art failing to teach or suggest that as part of a switch there is a connection which in the default position connects a terminal to a corresponding private computer. Claims 3, 7, 9, 13, 17, 21, 25, 29, 33, 37 and 38 have been amended in a manner consistent with the amendment to claim 1.

On page 3 of the Office Action, it is stated that Rothenberg col. 3 lines 37-57 teaches "a security unit that executes, for each terminal, identification processing of data that has been received from any one terminal and output to the at least one private computer or the shared

computer, the identification processing including utilizing an identifier **corresponding to a connector through which the at least one terminal is connected**, the identification processing enciphering a received key code via use of the identifier as an encryption key.”

[Emphasis added] Rothenberg discusses a method of encrypting packets. Rothenberg, col. 3 lines 32-33 state that the communications network is an Ethernet-type network. Ethernet-type networks use packets with IP addresses. It is well known to those skilled in the art that IP addresses are not related to the physical connection to a network. Therefore, an address such as an IP address does not teach or suggest the “connector” as in the present claims.

For at least the reasons stated above, the combination of Beasley, AAPA and Rothenberg taken separately or in combination fails to teach or suggest the elements of claims 1, 7, 13, 17 and 38 and the claims dependent therefrom.

As regards dependent claim 2, Rothenberg fails to teach or suggest “a second deciphering unit that executes a deciphering processing corresponding to the enciphering processing local to the at least one terminal currently connected to the shared computer, of the data that has been output from the switching device to the shared computer.” Rothenberg does not teach or suggest a second deciphering unit.

Claims 4, 10 and 25-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Beasley in view of AAPA in further view Rothenberg in further view Wilder, U.S. Patent No. 6,557,170. Wilder adds nothing to Beasley, AAPA and Rothenberg as argued above with respect to the independent claims and therefore, the combination of Beasley, AAPA, Rothenberg and Wilder fails to teach or suggest the elements of claims 4, 10 and 25-28.

Claims 5-6, 11-12 and 29-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Beasley in view of AAPA in further view Rothenberg in further view Onsen, U.S. Patent No. 6,473,811. Onsen adds nothing to Beasley, AAPA and Rothenberg as argued above with respect to the independent claims and therefore, the combination of Beasley, AAPA, Rothenberg and Onsen fails to teach or suggest the elements of claims 5-6, 11-12 and 29-36.

Claims 3, 9 and 21-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Beasley in view of AAPA in further view Rothenberg in further view Nichols, U.S. Patent No. 7,039,810. Nichols adds nothing to Beasley, AAPA and Rothenberg as argued above with respect to the independent claims and therefore, the combination of Beasley, AAPA, Rothenberg and Nichols fails to teach or suggest the elements of claims 3, 9 and 21-24. Further, the Office cites Rothenberg which uses an Ethernet-type address as the connector identifier of the present claims. Since these address are either 32 bytes (IPv4) or 128 bytes (IPv6), using these values

to shift an 8 bit key code is so inefficient that one of ordinary skill in the art would not try to combine them. Therefore, Rothenberg and Nichols teach away from their combination.

Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

## **SUMMARY**

It is submitted that the claims satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 103. It is also submitted that claims 1-38 continue to be allowable. It is further submitted that the claims are not taught, disclosed or suggested by the prior art. The claims are therefore in a condition suitable for allowance. An early Notice of Allowance is requested.

If any further fees, other than and except for the issue fee, are necessary with respect to this paper, the U.S.P.T.O. is requested to obtain the same from deposit account number 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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